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showing, that at a *cour plénière*, held by Edward I., at the Feast of Whitsuntide, 1306, at Westminster, a sum amounting to no less than £3,000 of the present currency was expended in remunerating the minstrels employed on the occasion.

In the four parts of this work, as yet issued, Mr. Chappell has arrived only at the period of Elizabeth. As much again, then, may probably be necessary to complete his design. But, even so far as he goes, the literary, and, to our view, the most important part of his work, completely succeeds in proving that there was a time when music was better understood in England than in any country in the world, and when English composers—and he has not reached mention of the greatest of them all, Henry Purcell—were the ablest in existence. What both music and musicians now are in England, it needs not us to tell, further than it appears to be the settled verdict of fashion, that a native of the soil *can* know nothing of that art in which his forefathers excelled all the rest of the world. For this there must be some reason; and as we have no faith in “the genial influence of the sunny south,” or any nonsense of an equally unpractical kind, we are forced to the very ordinary conclusion that just in proportion as English music and musicians have been neglected, the production of those commodities themselves has declined. It is a common Mark-lane proposition—a mere matter of demand and supply—and nothing else can rationally be made of it.

In taking leave of Mr. Chappell's book, we must bear testimony, not only to the great labour and skill expended on the collection and arrangement of its materials, but also to the graceful and entertaining style in which it is written throughout. Besides its obvious relish for the professed antiquary, it is replete with charms for every one possessing a particle of interest in the social doings of the people who have gone before us. Viewed simply as a collection of national airs, it is by far the most complete and authoritative extant; while, as a musical history of the periods to which these airs belong, it is equally creditable to its author's research and literary acquirement.—*Sunday Times*.

THE MUSICAL TIMES FOR FRANCE, AND OTHER COUNTRIES VIA FRANCE.

In accordance with a new Postal regulation, the postage of all Newspapers addressed to France, and other countries *via* France, must in future be paid in advance.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

This Journal is published on the 1st of every month.

We would request those who send us country newspapers, wishing us to read particular paragraphs, to mark the passage, by cutting a slit in the paper near it.

The late hour at which Advertisements reach us, interferes much with their proper classification.

Colored Envelopes are sent to all Subscribers whose payment in advance is exhausted. The paper will be discontinued where the Subscriber neglects to renew. We again remind those who are disappointed in getting back numbers, that only the music pages are stereotyped, and of the rest of the paper, only sufficient are printed to supply the current sale.

We cannot undertake to return offered contributions; the authors, therefore, will do well to retain copies.

D. C. S. is only one of the many who are disappointed in obtaining more than the music of back numbers of the Musical Times. We must again remind all those desirous of securing the musical articles, notices, advertisements, and other literary matter, that the only method of so doing, is by taking the work monthly as it appears.

Brief Chronicle of the last Month.

JERSEY.—The Choral Society gave the public an opportunity of judging of their progress, on December 28th, in a concert of Sacred Music. The society has been established about three years, and numbers about forty members. Conductor, Mr. Finnie.

SHEFFIELD.—The *Rotherham Independent* calls attention to Mr. W. E. Evans's proposals for the formation of classes for vocal and instrumental training.

LIVERPOOL.—A concert of sacred music was given on the 10th of January, by a band of fifty performers, members of the Philharmonic and other local choral societies, under the direction of Mr. T. S. Fisher.

STAINES.—On Christmas Eve, J. Smith, Esq., organist of Egham, gave a Lecture at the Literary Institution, on Christmas Carols, with illustrations.

CHATSWORTH (Edensor).—The ancient custom of Carol singing, we are happy to say, is still observed here, under the direction of R. Sedding, Esq.

CANTERBURY.—Caroling was resumed here, for the third season, more extensively than ever.

HAMMERSMITH.—The Rev. T. Helmore gave a Lecture on Carols, at the National School, Hammersmith, on Friday, December 28th, to a very large audience. The illustrations were the whole of the Christmas Carols by the Rev. T. Helmore and Rev. J. M. Neale. Two of them were encored. The Rev. gentleman was assisted on this occasion by the members of the Motett Choir of the Ecclesiological Society, and the children of Her Majesty's Chapels Royal. The Lecture and the Illustrations gave great satisfaction, and terminated with a vote of thanks to the lecturer and the gentlemen who assisted him.

PHILHARMONIC SOCIETY.—The number of the subscription concerts for a season, will in future be six; and will take place after Easter in each year.

LEEDS.—The Choral Society performed Mendelssohn's Oratorio of *St. Paul* on the 3rd of January, under the direction of R. S. Burton.

OXFORD.—“On the 26th of December the *employés* of the University Printing Office afforded their friends and a large assembly of the general public a treat of no ordinary character, by giving a Vocal and Instrumental Concert at the Town Hall, the use of which was kindly granted for the purpose by the Mayor. The Hall was crowded to excess, upwards of 900 persons, it was estimated, being present, including the Mayor, several members of the University, and a number of ladies. The entertainments were under the personal direction of Mr. Combe and Mr. Pickard Hall, the latter officiating as conductor on the occasion. We may congratulate the University Press Band upon the proficiency they have attained, and the cordial appreciation which greeted their well-directed efforts. All present seemed thoroughly to enjoy themselves; and, doubtless, there were many there who felt, as we did, that the example the occasion afforded, of the happy effect of the encouragement of rational recreation on the part of employers, for those engaged under them, and of themselves aiding their endeavours, would, if generally followed, produce a vast amount of social benefit; whilst it would materially conduce to the interests of the establishments of which they form a part. We may also add that it is especially becoming in this age of progress, that the Oxford Press should furnish a marked instance of this desirable and mutually beneficial fraternisation.”—*Oxford Herald*.

HASTINGS.—On the 27th of December, a concert of sacred music was given for the benefit of the organist and choir of All Saints' Church.

RYDE (Isle of Wight).—A successful concert was given on the 4th of January, in connection with the Ryde Philharmonic Society; conductor, Mr. A. Holloway.

BEAUMONT INSTITUTION.—The second of the popular concerts given by this institution took place on the 7th of January. The singers were Madame Clara Novello, Miss Louisa Vining, Mdlle Corelli, Mr. Sims Reeves, Mr. W. Cooper, and Mr. Farquharson. Conductor, Mr. Frank Mori.

GREENWICH.—Two lectures on Ecclesiastical Music were delivered by the Rev. Thomas Helmore, M.A., on the 8th and 15th of January, illustrated by the members of the Motett Choir of the Ecclesiological Society.

DUMFRIES.—A lecture on Madrigals (with illustrations), was read by Mr. Harkness, on the 15th of January, at the Mechanics' Institution.

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—This society gave Haydn's *Creation* on the 4th of January, and Mendelssohn's *Elijah* on the 11th, being the last two performances of Madame Clara in Exeter Hall, previous to her departure for Italy, whence she intends returning at the beginning of April.

HAWKINS' HISTORY OF MUSIC.—It is well known that a Catch by Callcott, for three voices, by punning with musical accents on two words, (Burney's History) consigned to long obscurity, the learned History of Music, by Sir John Hawkins. It is, however, not so generally known that at the time Hawkins published his work, Burney had only completed and printed the first of his four volumes. Each of these historians had his partisans, and Hawkins a bitter enemy in Boswell, on account of Dr. Johnson preferring Hawkins as one of his executors. The music of this mischievous Catch has very little merit, and the rhymes, not so much, constitute the pun, with short musical phrases succeeding each other on the following words:—*1st voice*, Sir John Hawkins. *2nd voice*, How d'y'e like him? *3rd voice*, Burney's Hist'ry. "Burn his history" was in every body's mouth, and condemned the sixteen years' labor of Hawkins to oblivion. Posterity has avenged the injustice of the past, and Novello's cheap edition of this long-neglected work, just published, is one of the most valuable reprints of sterling art literature of this age.—*Ella's Lecture on Melody, &c., London Institution, Dec., 1855*

STOURBRIDGE.—A concert of sacred music on the 27th of December, attracted an audience of four hundred persons. The chorus-singers and band were chiefly from the neighbourhood; and they had been exceedingly well trained by Mr. G. Wharton, an amateur, by whom the whole had been arranged, and who also acted as conductor.

ROTHERAM.—The singing-class in connection with the Mechanics' Institute, gave their first public concert on the 10th of January, under the leadership of Mr. J. Warburton, their honorary singing-master.

WINDSOR CASTLE.—By command of Her Majesty, a performance of Mehul's *Joseph* took place on the evening of New Year's Day, by an orchestra of nearly one hundred and forty performers. The solo vocalists were Madame Clara Novello, Mr. Montem Smith, Mr. Benson, Mr. Sims Reeves, and Mr. Thomas. The band comprised Her Majesty's private band, reinforced by a selection from the principal performers of the Philharmonic Society and Royal Italian Opera. The performance was conducted by Mr. Anderson, the director of Her Majesty's private band.

ROYAL SOCIETY OF MUSICIANS.—The hundred-and-eighteenth Anniversary Festival is fixed for the 18th of March, when the Right Hon. the Earl of Westmoreland has kindly consented to preside.

BOSTON, U.S.—The Handel and Haydn Society have given repeated performances of Handel's Oratorio of *Solomon*.

BRUNSWICK.—The Singacademie gave an admirable performance of Mendelssohn's *Paulus*. They intend executing *Idomeno* in celebration of the hundredth anniversary of Mozart's birth-day.

ST. MARTIN'S HALL.—Mendelssohn's Oratorio of *St. Paul* was repeated to a very full audience, on the 16th of January, by the band under the conduct of Mr. Hullah.

BRADFORD.—Mr. Charles Ollivier, secretary and manager of St. George's Hall, was presented with a testimonial, in recognition of the efficient manner in which he has discharged the duties of his office since the opening festival of 1853. The testimonial consisted of a gold watch, with appendages, and a purse containing 110 sovereigns. The presentation took place in the saloon of St. George's Hall.

LEICESTER.—Mendelssohn's oratorio, *Elijah*, was performed, December 31st, for the first time here. The vocalists were Madame Weiss, Misses Fanny Huddart, Julia Bleaden, and Deacon; Messrs. Wilbye Cooper, Oldershaw, Briggs, Branston, and Weiss. Mr. Alfred Nicholson conducted, and Mr. Willy led the band. The large music hall was completely filled.

HAWKSHEAD, Windermere.—The vicar of this place, who is indefatigable in providing instruction and amusement for his parishioners, has recently delivered two lectures, one on Bells, with musical illustrations, and one on Music and Song, with illustrations from the ballad and song music of England, Scotland, and Ireland. Mr. P. Twist, choir master, also gave a lecture on January 17th, on the Madrigal and Glee Music of the 16th, 17th, 18th, and 19th centuries, with illustrations. All these lectures have been free; and the Assembly-room has been crowded with a delighted audience.

KIDDERMINSTER.—The Concerts for the People commenced in the New Music Hall on the 21st Nov., and have been continued weekly ever since. They are now under the management of Mr. Haynes, organist of Malvern Abbey. Classes will shortly be opened for instruction in the science.

BIRMINGHAM.—Proposals and preparations are being actively made for forming an Amateur Harmonic Association; the object of which is, to "unite the numerous family and friendly musical circles of the town into one large association, who shall meet fortnightly for the study and practice of such music, and of such efforts in part-singing as could not possibly be realised in the private drawing-room, or on the small scale of an amateur glee club."

SACRED HARMONIC SOCIETY.—The performance of Mr. Costa's new oratorio, *Eli*, for the first time in London, is announced for February the 15th, at Exeter Hall.

WANDSWORTH.—On Tuesday, the 15th instant, Handel's *Messiah* was performed at the Spread Eagle Assembly Rooms, by some of the members of the South London and Westminster Sacred Harmonic Societies, under the able conductorship of Mr. Williams, for the benefit of the Wandsworth Literary and Scientific Institution. The room was densely crowded, and the repeated bursts of applause proved that the excellent performance of this oratorio was appreciated as it deserved to be. We are glad to hear that, owing to the kindness of Mr. Williams and many of the band and chorus, who gave their valuable services gratuitously, a considerable balance has been added to the funds of the institution.

NORWICH.—The members and friends of Mr. H. Rudd's Upper Singing Class gave their second private Musical Recreation, on the 2nd of December. The performance was well attended, and gave great satisfaction. The Rev. A. B. Power presided; and in the course of the evening delivered a brief address on the advantages of music, and the importance of its cultivation as a branch of education.

CANTERBURY.—The first of Mr. Gough's Concerts for the people, this season, took place on the 21st of January.

LIVERPOOL.—The second concert of the Sacred Harmonic Society, in St. George's Hall, took place on the 23rd of January, when Mr. C. D. Hackett's oratorio, *The Passage of the Red Sea*, drew a fashionable audience.

The Centenary of Mozart (26th of January, 1856), was celebrated by a grand organ performance, by Mr. W. T. Best, in St. George's Hall; the programme being entirely selected from the works of the immortal composer.

BLAINA (Monmouth).—The last of a course of six lectures on Congregational Psalmody, was delivered by the Rev. J. J. Waite, of Hereford, on the 19th January; the illustrations being chiefly executed by the workmen employed in the Blaina Iron Works, belonging to F. Levick, Esq.

BOSTON.—A second performance of Handel's *Messiah*, by the Mendelssohn Choral Society, took place on the 29th of December, when two chorales from *St. Paul* were sung with great effect. The oratorio of the *Messiah* was also performed by the Handel and Haydn Society, at the Boston Music Hall.

Advertisement.

IMPROVEMENTS IN PIANOFORTES—*HARWAR v. DREAPER*.—This was an action brought by the plaintiff, formerly a pianoforte manufacturer, carrying on business in Bloomsbury-street, to recover compensation of the defendant, a pianoforte manufacturer, of Liverpool, for inventing certain improvements in that instrument which the defendant had patented. There were other claims, but which were not material.—The plaintiff, it appeared, had been lately in the defendant's service, and whilst so employed had suggested, as he stated, the improvements in question, but which the defendant alleged were of his invention, and worked out under his direction by the plaintiff.—At the conclusion of the plaintiff's case the learned counsel withdrew from the cause, and a verdict was accordingly returned for the defendant, thereby establishing his right to the originality of the improvements.—*Sun*.

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